

REMARKS

Summary

Claims 1-9 were pending and all of the claims were rejected. Claims 1-9, have been amended. Corresponding changes to the specification have been made to improve clarity. No new matter has been introduced. Claims 1-9 are pending after entry of this amendment.

Claim Objections

At item 1 of the Office action, the Examiner objected to the claims on the basis of a number of informalities. The Applicant has amended Claims 1-9 in view of the Examiner's comments. In the circumstance where the Examiner has objected to the use of the term "A claim" and required that it be changed to "The claim", the Applicant notes that both forms have normally been accepted by the Office for dependent claims (see examples at MPEP § 608.01(n) I.A and 608.01(n) IV). However, as the forms are entirely interchangeable, the Applicant has, without suggesting that there is any difference in scope, made the amendment as requested. As a consequence of the amendments, the Applicant respectfully submits that the objections have been obviated, and should be withdrawn.

In order to clarify the antecedent basis for the more explicit claim terminology of "first nonmagnetic insulating layer" and "second nonmagnetic insulating layer", which find descriptions as elements 12 and 26, respectively, in the specification, the specification has been amended to recite these terms explicitly. No new matter has been introduced in these amendments.

Claim Rejections

35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention.

The Examiner has requested that the Applicant point out the claimed devices in the specification. As a comprehensive correspondence table between the specification and the claims would be unduly time consuming without more specific knowledge of the areas remaining to be clarified, the Applicant has provided a brief table, which is intended to be indicative, but not intended to limit the claims to only the structures or limitations identified as illustrative.

Claim 1, Step #	Specification Reference
(a)	Page 24, lines 21 to 22, and Fig. 7
(c)	Page 25, lines 6 to 11, and Fig. 9
(d)	Page 25, lines 16 to 25, Figs. 9 and 10, page 26, lines 9 to 11 and Fig. 11A
(f), (g), (h)	Not substantively amended
(e)	Page 26, lines 12 to 20, Fig. 11, page 27 lines 9 to 14, and Fig. 12
(i)	Page 31, lines 24-27, and Fig. 18

With the amendments and clarifications in this response, the Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection has been overcome.


Conclusion

Claims 1-9 have been amended. Claims 1-9 are now pending.

In view of the amendments and for at least the reasons given above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are allowable.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned in the event that a telephone interview would expedite consideration of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony P. Curtis', is written over a horizontal line.

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